What is claimed is:

1. A half-tone dot elimination method for eliminating half-tone dots from a half-tone dot meshed image, comprising:

specifying a half-tone dot meshed area based on black pixel connection pattern density of a target process area; and

eliminating a connection pattern, the size of which is smaller than a specific value, based on statistics on black pixel connection pattern sizes included in the half-tone dot meshed area.

2. The half-tone dot elimination method according to claim 1, further comprising

eliminating connection patterns, the (outline length/number of black pixels included in a connection pattern) exceeds a prescribed value, of all the connection patterns included in the half-tone dot meshed area.

3. The half-tone dot elimination method according to claim 2, wherein a side length of a circumscribed rectangle of a connection pattern is used for the outline length.

4. The half-tone dot elimination method according to claim 1, further comprising

eliminating projections that are attached to an image except half-tone dots included in the half-tone dot meshed area.

5. The half-tone dot elimination method according to claim 4, wherein said projection elimination step eliminates a projection, the size of which is smaller than a connection pattern size eliminated in said connection pattern elimination step.

6. The half-tone dot elimination method according to claim 4, wherein said projection elimination step converts a binary image into a grey image, a degradation process is applied to the half-tone dot meshed area and the image after the degradation process is binarized again.

7. The half-tone dot elimination method according to claim 1, wherein said connection pattern elimination step performs the process using a threshold value determined based on both an average value and standard deviation of a connection pattern size.

8. The half-tone dot elimination method according to claim 1, wherein said connection pattern elimination step performs the process using a trough of a histogram of connection pattern sizes as a threshold value.

9. A half-tone dot elimination system for eliminating half-tone dots from a half-tone dot meshed image, comprising:

a meshed area specifying unit specifying a half-tone dot meshed area, based on black pixel connection pattern density of a target process area; and

a connection pattern elimination unit eliminating a connection pattern, the size of which is smaller than a specific value, based on statistics on black pixel connection pattern sizes included in the half-tone dot meshed area.

10. A program for enabling a computer to implement a half-tone dot elimination method for eliminating half-tone dots from a half-tone dot meshed image, comprising:

specifying a half-tone dot meshed area, based on black pixel connection pattern density of a target

process area; and

eliminating a connection pattern, the size of which is smaller than a specific value, based on statistics on black pixel connection pattern sizes included in the half-tone dot meshed area.